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DOANE, Joseph, W. et al

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Olivia TEFY

Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38

Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35

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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): KENT DISPLAYS, INC. [US/US]; 343 Portage Boulevard, Kent, OH 44240 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): DOANE, Joseph, W. [US/US]; 340 OakWood Drive, Kent, OH 44240 (US). KHAN, Asad, A. [PK/US]; 901 Admore Drive, Kent, OH 44240 (US). **SEED, Alexander, J.** [GB/US]; 4071 Baird Road, Stow, OH 44224-3601 (US).

(74) Agent: POWELL, Raymond, H., J.; Westerlund Powell, P.C., 122 N. Alfred Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-3011 (US).

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(54) Title: CHIRAL ADDITIVES FOR CHOLESTERIC DISPLAYS

(57) Abstract: A unique class of chiral additive materials is disclosed for use in cholesteric displays that possess a helical twist power substantially independent of temperature. The additives have a solubility and a helical twist power large enough to be used as a single chiral component with little dilution of the physical properties of the nematic liquid crystal host mixture. The chiral additives may be used in combination with non-chiral additives to provide a helical twisting power substantially independent of temperature suitable for cholesteric displays.

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CHIRAL ADDITIVES FOR CHOLESTERIC DISPLAYS

STATEMENT OF GOVERNMENT INTEREST

The invention described herein was made in the performance of work under Contract No. DMI9903655 awarded by the National Science Foundation. Thus, the Government of the United States has certain rights in this invention.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

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The present invention relates to a unique class of chiral compounds for liquid crystals, and to liquid-crystalline mixtures containing such chiral compounds, and to their use for cholesteric displays and the resulting devices.

Description of the Related Art

Cholesteric flat-panel displays are currently under development because of their low power consumption, bright viewing characteristics at wide angles, and high-resolution capability at low cost. Their low-power consumption is a result of the bistable memory characteristic inherent in the technology. As described in the first U. S. Patents on this technology (See U.S. Patent Nos. 5,251,048, 5,384,067, 5,437,811, and 5,453,863), each pixel of the display can exist in a stable color reflective state with any desired reflective intensity or brightness (gray-scale) without any applied power. The degree of brightness is electronically selected by a pulse. A unique feature described in those inventions, is the existence of a threshold in the electronic response to a pulse such that a matrix of pixels can be multiplexed to achieve a high resolution display at low cost without the need of transistor elements (active matrix) at each pixel. Because of the low power and reflective brightness characteristics, cholesteric displays are used in portable or handheld applications where long battery life and versatile viewing capabilities are important.

The reflective properties of cholesteric liquid crystals have been generally known for many years. Sometimes called a chiral nematic, a cholesteric liquid crystal achieves its color reflective property because the molecules are arranged in a helical twist pattern with a

periodicity (pitch length) equal to the wavelength of light in the material. The first materials explored with this property were the cholesterol esters. These materials are not only chiral but also liquid crystalline and reflect iridescent colors when the periodicity of the twist corresponds to a reflective wavelength from 400nm to about 700nm ["Cholesteric Structure – II: Chemical Significance", p105 – 119, J. L. Fergason, N. N. Goldberg, R. J. Nadalin, *Liquid Crystals*, Ed. G. H. Brown, G. J. Dienes, M. M. Labes, Gordon and Breach Science Publishers, New York (1966)]. The materials were therefore called cholesteric liquid crystals, a name still used today even though cholesterol materials are seldom used today. Instead, a mixture of chiral and achiral compounds is used as discussed by Gottarelli *et al.* ["Induced Cholesteric Mesophases: Origin and Application, G. Gottarelli, G. P. Spada, Mol. Cryst. Liq. Cryst., 123, 377 – 388 (1985)]. Achiral liquid crystalline compounds make up a nematic liquid crystalline host mixture, which has no helical twist by itself. To this host nematic is added a chiral compound to twist up the nematic material into one of a cholesteric structure, hence the name chiral nematic.

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The helical arrangement of the molecules provides a self-assembled stack of dielectric layers because of the anisotropy of the refractive index of the molecules. The index of refraction continuously varies along the stack by as much as 0.25 depending upon the nematic material. Because of the helical nature of the refractive index in the layer, the stack will reflect one circular component of a selected bandwidth of colored light. A right handed twisted planar texture will therefore decompose incident unpolarized white light into its right and left components by reflecting the right hand component and transmitting the left. A left-handed twisted material will do the opposite. A left-hand display cell stacked on top of a right-hand cell, both with the same pitch length, will reflect all of the incident light.

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According to Bragg's law, the wavelength λ , of the selective reflection is given by the equation: $\lambda = np$ where p is the pitch of the helical structure and n is the average refractive index of the liquid crystal mixture. In mixtures of a nematic liquid crystal with the chiral additive, the reciprocal of the pitch length is approximately proportional to the concentration X, of the chiral compound, $p^{-1} = \beta_X$ with β being the helical twisting power (HTP).

Conventional chiral additives available today have twisting powers typically of $\beta < 15 \mu m^{-1}$ when X is measured in weight percent.

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Certain dimethanoldioxolane derivatives have been described in the literature as possessing large HTP values. E.g., "TADDOLs with Unprecedented Helical Twisting Power in Liquid Crystals", H. G. Kuball, B. Weiss, A. K. Beck, D. Seebach, *Helvetica Chimica Acta*, 80, 2507-2514 (1997); "TADDOLs Under Closer Scrutiny – Why Bulky Substituents Make it All Different", A. K. Beck, M. Dobbler, D. A. Plattner, *Helvetica Chimica Acta*, 80, 2073-2083 (1997); and in US Patent 5,637,255. Like other chiral additives, they are also known to generally possess large temperature dependent values of dp/dT and, hence, dλ/dT. Their temperature dependencies tend to be positive in that the pitch length increases with increasing temperature, causing a cholesteric material to change from blue to red reflecting. Furthermore, the temperature dependence dp/dT has been shown to depend on the material of the host nematic. See "TADDOLs with Unprecedented Helical Twisting Power in Liquid Crystals", H. G. Kuball, B. Weiss, A. K. Beck, D. Seebach, *Helvetica Chimica Acta*, 80, 2507-2514 (1997).

In order for flat-panel displays to be useful for portable applications, it is necessary for the display be operable over a wide range of temperatures. Outdoor temperatures can range from -20°C to +50°C depending on the environment. It would be advantageous if the reflected colors did not change over this temperature range. Implementing this desirable characteristic is not a straightforward task, since nearly all cholesteric liquid crystalline materials are well known to exhibit reflective colors that vary strongly with changes in temperature. Depending on the shape or chemical structure of the chiral molecule, the pitch length p and, hence, the peak reflective wavelength λ , can increase with temperature (+d λ /dT) or decrease with temperature (-d λ /dT). Also, in many cases, d λ /dT is not linear over the temperature range of the cholesteric phase.

It should be mentioned at this point that the measurement for the temperature dependence of the pitch is performed using test cells, each of which is 5µm thick, and has a hard coat layer on both substrates. There is also an unrubbed polyimide surface on top of the

hard coat layers. The measurement for the temperature dependence of the pitch is performed in the following manner. A collimated light is incident on the display at surface normal and the reflected light is detected at 45°. The display is scanned in the wavelength band that includes the peak-reflected wavelength, e.g., 400nm to 700nm, or 700nm to 1500nm. The cell is switched to the planar texture at each test temperature. The measurement is performed from -20°C to +70°C in 10°C intervals. It should be noted that, for the purposes of a flat temperature dependence, only a portion of the test temperature range, i.e., temperatures between +10°C to +50°C, are considered. In any event, the maximum change in peak reflected wavelength is then recorded. A mixture is considered to exhibit temperature independent color behavior if the maximum change in the peak reflection wavelength is 30nm or less across the temperature range of +10°C to +50°C.

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It has been shown that cholesteric displays fabricated using a mixture of two or more chiral compounds as additives can be made to produce a helical twist power and, hence, reflective wavelength that is independent of temperature by combining a chiral compound that has a $+d\lambda/dT$ with one with a $-d\lambda/dT$. U.S. Patent No. 5,309,265 describes a means of achieving a temperature independent λ by combining a plurality of chiral compounds, where both compounds exhibit the same twist sense.

It will be noted that there are a number of factors that preclude employing many previously known chiral compounds in liquid crystals. First of all, a chiral compound must be soluble in the nematic liquid crystal host material; many compounds are simply not soluble or only weakly soluble and, thus, cannot be used. In compounds that are soluble, they may adversely affect the nematic material by substantially reducing the temperature range of the liquid crystalline phase. If the chiral compound has an HTP that is too low, it may be necessary to add a large quantity of the additive which can dilute some of the desirable physical properties of the host nematic needed for the cholesteric display.

Consequently, a need still exists for a chiral additive, which is readily soluble in a nematic host mixture and which can be used individually (i.e., without needing to be combined with other chiral materials) for cholesteric displays that provides a high helical

twisting power, substantially independent of temperature in operating ranges suitable for the cholesteric displays. What is also needed is a cholesteric display exhibiting a high helical twisting power, which is substantially independent of temperature in operating ranges suitable for the cholesteric displays, which display includes at least one chiral additive, which is readily soluble in a nematic host mixture. In some cases it would be desirable if the temperature dependence of the cholesteric display could be tailored by the addition of a second additive, e.g., either an achiral compound or a second chiral additive different from the first chiral additive, where the twist senses of the first and second chiral additives are opposite to one another.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The above and other objectives are fulfilled by the present invention which concerns a unique class of chiral compounds that can be used alone as the optically-active additive or dopant in nematic liquid crystals to achieve a reflective wavelength that is temperature independent or essentially temperature independent, i.e., a $d\lambda/dT$ approaching zero in value, yet without significantly reducing the temperature range of the liquid crystalline phase, or diluting or otherwise adversely affecting its needed physical properties for liquid crystal implementations.

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The inventive compounds are derivatives of dioxolanes and have the molecular structure generally indicated in Fig. 1 and reproduced below as general formula I.

Ι,

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The R, R₁, R₂ and R₃ substitutions on the molecule of general formula I control the temperature dependence of the twisting power in the nematic host mixture in a surprisingly superior fashion. Generally, the R₂ and R₃ groups at the number 2 position of the dioxolane

ring independently are hydrogen, methyl or another lower alkyl group, or a substituted aryl or biaryl unit, while the R_1 groups independently each are a hydroxyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, or arylalkoxy group. The R groups in general formula I indicate a group of general formula II, which is as follows:

 Π $A_1 - [-Z-]_q - A_2 -$

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where A_1 is an aromatic group, an acyclic aliphatic group, or an alicyclic group (e.g., a monoor polycyclic aryl group, a straight chain or branched chain alkyl group, an arylalkyl group, an arylalkenyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a cycloalkenyl group), and A_1 can be a substituted or unsubstituted group. For example, A_1 can be benzyl, cinnamyl, phenethyl, cyclohexyl, and the like. Z is a group selected from -O-, -OCO-, or -S-, and the coefficient q is 0 or 1. Z can also be $(CH_2)_nO$ with the coefficient n being 0 to 5 and the coefficient q being 1. A_2 is a bivalent radical of naphthalene that may additionally be substituted. Preferably, A_2 is a bivalent radical (2,6- or 1,5-disubstituted) of naphthalene, which may be unsubstituted or substituted (e.g., methyl, cyano, halogeno, amino, nitro, or hydroxyl substituents). The ring structure of A_2 , or A_1 if it is cyclic, optionally can be heterocyclic, such as by replacement of one or more CH member(s) of the ring structure with N, O and/or S (e.g., a bivalent radical of quinoline, xanthene, carbazole, or acridine).

In one preferred embodiment, each R substituent of general formula I is independently selected as:

where R₄ can be represented by general formula III as follows:

III Y — [—X—]_n — [—Z—]_q—

where n is an integer value of 0 or 1 or more, X is -CH=CH-CH₂-, or -(CH₂)_m- where m is an integer value of 1, 2, 3, or more. Y is a radical of an aromatic hydrocarbon, an acyclic aliphatic hydrocarbon, or an alicyclic hydrocarbon group (e.g., a mono- or polycyclic aryl group, a straight chain or branched chain alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a cycloalkenyl group, and the like), and Y can be a substituted or unsubstituted group. Z and q have the same respective meanings as defined above relative to general formula II.

In one preferred embodiment, R₄ is an aryloxy, an arylalkoxy, an arylalkyleneoxy, or an arylalkenyleneoxy group. Examples of R₄ advantageously may include, for instance, benzyloxy (C₆H₅-CH₂-O-), cinnamyloxy (C₆H₅-CH=CH-CH₂-O-), phenethyloxy (C₆H₅-CH₂-CH₂-O-), and the like, where R₁ is a hydroxy group and R₂ and R₃ are methyl groups.

Additionally, the specific structures of the four R groups present in formula I or Fig. 1 can be identical to each other or they can independently vary from each other within the guidelines indicated above and herein.

The inventive optically-active, chiral additives according to the formula of Fig. 1 contain a sufficiently high helical twisting power (HTP) so that only a relatively small amount of the chiral additive is required to twist the nematic phase to a pitch length where it reflects wavelengths in the visible or infrared portion of the electromagnetic spectrum. On the other hand, the HTP of the additive is not inordinately high either, so that the invention can avoid undesired gradients in concentration, which could cause undesired inhomogeneities in the display. The present invention thereby avoids the need to combine separate types of chiral compounds in order to achieve a very high degree of temperature independence. While the present invention does not necessarily exclude the possibility, and in fact does contemplate, use of mixtures of different inventive chiral compounds within the scope of the formula of Fig. 1, the important point is that the inventive chiral compounds can be effectively used singly in a liquid-crystalline nematic mixture deployed in a light modulating apparatus to avoid the need for chiral additive combinations.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is the general chemical structure of the dioxolane derivatives according to the present invention, where the R₁, R₂ R₃, and R₄ substituents control the temperature dependence of the twisting power in a superior manner.

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Fig. 2 is the chemical structure of a preferred inventive compound embodied by the formula of Fig. 1, viz., (4R,5R)-2,2-dimethyl- α , α , α ', α '-tetrakis[6-(benzyloxy)naphth-2-yl]-1,3-dioxolane-4,5-dimethanol, which has been experimentally demonstrated to provide low $d\lambda/dT$ in certain nematic host mixtures.

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Fig. 3 is a graph showing the peak reflection wavelength (nm) versus temperature results for experimental tests performed with respect to a variation in color for two compounds in the E44 nematic host mixture. A substitution on the naphthalene units shows a dramatic change in the $d\lambda/dT$ results.

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Fig. 4 is a graph showing the peak reflection wavelength (nm) versus temperature results for experimental tests performed on the dimethanoldioxolane compound from Fig. 2 in E44 nematic host mixture tested with and without UCN additive.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

In this invention, a new class of derivatives of dioxolanes embodied by the formula of Fig. 1 has been discovered that provide a substantially temperature independent dp/dT over a wide operating temperature range when added to nematic liquid crystalline mixtures with physical properties that are useful in cholesteric displays, including commercially viable cholesteric displays. The inventive chiral compounds are especially useful as additives to nematic liquid crystals for use in cholesteric displays to achieve needed properties for their practical use, particularly in portable device applications. Significantly, this invention provides this utility while only requiring the use of a single type of chiral additive compound within the scope of the invention, as described herein, and without requiring a mixture of different types of chiral additives.

Commercially viable displays require a liquid crystal mixture that has a dielectric anisotropy, birefringence and desired elastic and viscosity coefficients to provide a display with suitable brightness, contrast, and speed. The dielectric anisotropy and viscosity must be such that low voltage pulses can be used to reduce the cost of the electronic drive chips as well as implement drive schemes and waveforms for rapidly addressing the display. The birefringence has to be large to provide high brightness. Furthermore, the materials must not provide undesirable features to the display such as image sticking or phase separation. Cholesteric displays therefore require very special cholesteric materials. Cholesteric displays incorporating the inventive dioxolane derivatives satisfactorily meet all these criteria and requirements, while providing superior temperature independence performance and so forth.

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Namely, the invention provides chiral compound additives to nematic liquid crystals that provide at least the following features important for cholesteric displays:

- 1. Solubility in nematic liquid crystals that have the physical properties necessary for cholesteric displays.
- 2. Possess a helical twist power (HTP) generally ranging from $15 \ \mu m^{-1}$ to $200 \ \mu m^{-1}$, and more usually from $30 \ \mu m^{-1}$ to $90 \ \mu m^{-1}$. HTP values in this range are not so small as to dilute the important physical properties of nematic liquid crystals when twisted to reflect light in the visible spectrum. In addition, these values are not so large that slight inhomogeneities in the mixture caused by phase separation can disfigure the display.
- 3. Provide a substantially temperature independent HTP in the cholesteric phase over the operating temperature range of cholesteric displays of commercial value.
- Do not decompose under ultraviolet light of exposures under common environmental conditions.
 - 5. Do not chemically react with the host nematic liquid crystal.
 - 6. Possess the property that the temperature dependence can be modified by the addition of an achiral additive to the nematic liquid crystal. Such an additive may or may not posses a liquid crystalline phase.

As compared to the competing contemporarily available chiral additives that have twisting powers typically of $\beta < 15 \mu m^{-1}$ when X is measured in weight percent, the new soluble chiral additive materials, invented here, have values of β approaching $80 \mu m^{-1}$. This is a substantial improvement since the concentration of the chiral additive in this invention can be so small as to have a near negligible effect on the physical properties of the nematic liquid crystal.

Chiral nematic liquid crystalline materials within the scope of this invention, which include an inventive chiral additive and a nematic host mixture, can be implemented in cholesteric liquid crystal displays, electro-optical cells, and light modulating apparatuses in manners, arrangements and/or systems consistent with the descriptions, such as set forth in U.S. Patent Nos. 5,251,048, 5,384,067, 5,437,811, and 5,453,863, whose descriptions are incorporated by reference.

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EXAMPLES

Synthesis Scheme for Chiral Additive:

One illustrative inventive compound, (4R,5R)-2,2-dimethyl- α , α , α ', α '-tetrakis[6-(benzyloxy)naphth-2-yl]-1,3-dioxolane-4,5-dimethanol, is shown in Fig. 2 and is reproduced below. The dimethanoldioxolane has 2,6-substituted naphthalene units.

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The inventive compound of Fig. 2 was synthesized according to the following protocol with reference to the reaction Scheme I provided below.

Synthesis of 2-(Benzyloxy)-6-bromonaphthalene (2) intermediate:

A mechanically stirred mixture of 6-bromonaphth-2-ol (10.00g, 0.04483mol), benzyl bromide (6.97g, 0.0408mol), potassium carbonate (11.26g, 0.08147mol) and butan-2-one

(350ml) was heated under reflux for 24 hrs. (GLC and TLC analyses revealed a complete reaction). The potassium carbonate was filtered off and the filtrate was washed with water before being dried (MgSO₄). The drying agent was filtered off and the solvent was removed in vacuo to give a pale orange solid. The crude product was crystallized twice from ethanol and was dried in vacuo (P₂O₅, CaCl₂, paraffin wax, 48h) to afford white crystals. Yield = 11.97g (94%), mp 113-114°C.

Synthesis of product compound - compound (4):

(4R,5R)-2,2-dimethyl-a,a,a',a'-tetrakis[6-(benzyloxy)naphth-2-yl]-1,3-dioxolan-4,5-dimethanol (4):

n-Butyllithium (5.37ml, 2.5M in hexane, 0.0134mol) was added dropwise at -74°C to -77°C to a mechanically stirred, cooled (-77°C) solution of compound 2 (4.20g, 0.0134mol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (350ml) under dry argon. Once the addition was complete, the reaction mixture was maintained under these conditions for a further 2 hrs. (GLC analysis revealed a complete reaction) before the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to -25°C.

2,3-O-Isopropylidene-L-tartrate (0.73g, 0.03345mol) was added to the reaction mixture at -20°C to -25°C (exothermic) and the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for a further 15 hrs. before saturated ammonium chloride (60ml) was added and the mixture stirred for a further 4 hrs. The reaction mixture was washed with diethyl ether (3 x 75ml) and the combined organic washings were dried (MgSO₄). The drying agent was filtered off and the solvent was removed *in vacuo* to give an orange semi-solid.

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The crude product was purified twice by column chromatography [silica gel / hexane, ethyl acetate, 4:1] followed by further chromatography [silica gel / hexane, diethyl ether, 4:1]. The product was crystallized from toluene to afford a pale yellow solid, which was dried in vacuo (P₂O₅, CaCl₂, paraffin wax, 48h).

30 Yield = 7.30g (50%).

Scheme 1

1a...Benzyl bromide, K₂CO₃. 1b...(i) n-Butyllithium; (ii) NH₄Cl.

Example 1:

Experimental studies were performed on the dimethanoldioxolane compound (4) described above and of the structure shown in Fig. 2, and separately on (4R,5R)-2,2-dimethyl-α,α,α',α'-tetrakis[naphth-2-yl]-1,3-dioxolane-4,5-dimethanol as a comparative compound, each in a E44 nematic host mixture, the results of which were plotted in Fig. 3 as a graph showing the peak reflection wavelength (nm) versus temperature. The respective cholesteric liquid crystal mixtures prepared for conducting these experimental studies were as follows.

10 COMPOSITION 1 formulation:

Component	Component amt. (wt%)
2-naphthyl as the R groups on the dimethanoldioxolane	3.4%
(comparative compound)	
E44	96.6%

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COMPOSITION 2 formulation:

Component	Component amt. (wt%)
6-benzyloxynaphth-2-yl as the R groups on the	10.0%
dimethanoldioxolane (compound (4), Fig. 2 compound)	
E44	90.0%

It will be noted that E44 is commercially available nematic liquid crystal mixture that was obtained from Merck KgaA in Darmstadt, Germany through EM Industries in Hawthorne, New York. It will also be noted that the percentage of compound (4), and thus the percentage of E44, advantageously can be varied to achieve the desired reflective wavelength. For example, varying the percentage of compound (4) from 10 wt% to 2 wt% changes the reflective wavelength from the visible into the infrared. Finally, it will be noted that other additive materials can be included in the cell material to improve other cell properties.

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As to the cholesteric display test cell arrangement used, both mixtures, i.e., Compositions 1 and 2, were vacuum filled in separate surface stabilized cholesteric displays with a 5µm cell spacing. To accomplish this, two glass plate substrates were put together using an epoxy material around the perimeters with the substrates separated by 5 micron spacers and a small hole left in the perimeter seal for introducing the liquid crystal. The inner faces of the glass substrates were coated with indium-tin oxide (ITO), a standard insulating layer, and a polyimide layer for liquid crystal alignment. The back plate was painted black. The liquid crystal mixture was vacuum filled into the provided cell so that each liquid crystal mixture was sandwiched between the two glass plate substrates.

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The arrangement used to control the temperature of the liquid crystal mixtures samples being tested was as follows. A liquid nitrogen cryostat was used to control temperature on the test cells. The cryostat had a cold finger and a heater. The cryostat system was obtained from Janis Cryogenics. A white light source was used with a monochromator, both obtained from Oriel. A silicon detector was used to detect the light intensity. To measure the color, the cell was switched to the reflecting planar state at each temperature and the peak reflection wavelength was determined. The peak reflection wavelength of the cells was measured with incident light at the surface normal and reflected light detected at 45°. The switching pulse used had a magnitude (amplitude and width) high enough to transform the texture to the reflecting planar texture at each temperature. The pulse was an AC square pulse. Data points were typically acquired every 10°C from -20°C to about +70°C. The results of these measurements are plotted in Fig. 3.

The compound of Fig. 2 was found through these experimental studies to possess a substantially temperature independent HTP in the nematic mixture E44, which is suitable for cholesteric displays. The HTP for this compound at room temperature in E44 is $31\mu\text{m}^{-1}$. The HTP for the base compound (unsubstituted naphthalene units) is $91\mu\text{m}^{-1}$. A plot of the temperature dependence of the compound according to the present invention, a compound containing (4R,5R)-2,2-dimethyl- α , α , α ', α '-tetrakis[6-(benzyloxy)naphth-2-yl]-1,3-dioxolan-4,5-dimethanol, versus that of the comparative reference compound, i.e., a similar compound containing a small amount by weight of (4R,5R)-2,2-dimethyl- α , α , α ', α '-tetrakis[naphth-2-yl]-

1,3-dioxolane-4,5-dimethanol, which is strongly temperature dependent, is shown in Fig. 3. It should be noted that both molecules exhibit a linear temperature dependence from -20°C to +70°C.

In addition to the use of a single chiral additive, independence of the helical twisting power with temperature advantageously can be obtained by mixing two dioxolane materials that are structurally different and that exhibit opposite twist senses.

Example 2:

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10 ADDITIONAL STUDIES INVOLVING ACHIRAL COMPOUND ADDITIVE:

The change in color of a liquid crystal mixture containing a chiral compound (viz., compound 4, Fig. 2 compound) and a host mixture (viz. E44) along with a small amount of an achiral non-liquid crystalline compound (undecyl cyanide at 4% by weight) was investigated. The components were mixed according to the following proportions as Composition 3:

COMPOSITION 3 formulation:

	Component	Component amt. (wt%)
	6-benzyloxynaphth-2-yl as the R groups on the	11.0%
20	dimethanoldioxolane (compound (4), Fig. 2 compound)	
	E44	85.0%
	UCN (undecyl cyanide, C ₁₁ H ₂₃ CN)	4.0%

The resulting liquid-crystalline mixture containing the achiral additive was filled into a cell and tested using the arrangement described in Example 1. The results of these additional experiments investigating the possible effect of certain achiral additives to the liquid crystalline nematic mixture are shown in Fig. 4, and the plot of the results obtained for Composition 2 in Example 1 as indicated in Fig. 3 was included for sake of comparison. The inventive chiral dimethanoldioxolane compound used for these studies was used to twist the nematic phase to a blue reflecting pitch length. Referring to Fig. 4, a subtle difference between the two curves was clearly evident. Without the achiral additive, the $d\lambda/dT$ is nearly

flat with a slightly negative value, whereas with the achiral additive, the d\(\lambda\)/dT is nearly flat with a slightly positive value. The helical twisting power for the dimethanoldioxolane compound is similar for the two nematic mixtures in Fig. 4 with the additive host mixture showing a slightly higher HTP.

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It should be noted that UCN is representative of a class of achiral compounds of the general structure R^1CN where $R^1 = alkyl$. $R^1 = C_{11}H_{23}$ - for UCN itself.

Thus, a further discovery of this invention is that fine-tuning can therefore be performed using certain achiral non-liquid crystalline compounds added to a cholesteric system with a nematic host mixture and a single chiral compound.

For practicing this further embodiment, the achiral additive, namely, aliphatic nitriles, can be commercially obtained from Aldrich Chemicals or prepared by conventionally known methods. Useful alkyl nitriles as the achiral additive include 5C-17C alkanenitriles, and more preferably 8C-14C straight chain or n-alkane nitriles. One preferred alkyl nitrile is undecanenitrile, using IUPAC nomenclature (alternatively, referred to as undecyl cyanide, in common nomenclature). These achiral additives have been found to be effective in amounts of approximately 2 to 6 wt% of the overall liquid-crystalline mixture.

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Although E44 was exemplified above, virtually any nematic host mixture, including cyanobiphenyls known in the art, can be used in the practice of this invention. The inventive chiral compounds are readily soluble, as required, in many commercially available nematic host mixtures.

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While this invention has been described in terms of its preferred embodiments, those skilled in the art will recognize that the invention can be practiced with modification within the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

APPENDIX: References Cited

1. U.S. Patent No. 5,251,048: "Method and Apparatus of Electronic Switching of a Reflective Color Display", J. W. Doane, D.-K. Yang, October 1993.

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- 2. U.S. Patent No. 5,384,067: "Grey Scale Liquid Crystal Material", J. W. Doane, D.-K. Yang, January 1995.
- U.S. Patent No. 5,437,811: "Liquid Crystalline Light Modulating Device and Material", J.
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- U.S. Patent No. 5,453,863: "Multistable Chiral Nematic Displays", J. West, D.-K. Yang, September 1995.
 - 5. "Cholesteric Structure II: Chemical Significance", p105 119, J. L. Fergason, N. N. Goldberg, R. J. Nadalin, *Liquid Crystals*, Ed. G. H. Brown, G. J. Dienes, M. M. Labes, Gordon and Breach Science Publishers, New York (1966)
- "Induced Cholesteric Mesophases: Origin and Application, G. Gottarelli, G. P. Spada,
 Mol. Cryst. Liq. Cryst., 123, 377 388 (1985)
 - U.S. Patent No. 5,309,265: "Short Pitch LC layer with a temperature Independent λ₀ and Containing a Nematic LC Doped with Plural Chiral Additives Having the Same Twist Sense", R. Buchecker, J. Funfschilling, M. Schadt, May 1994.
- 8. "TADDOLs with Unprecedented Helical Twisting Power in Liquid Crystals", H.-G. Kuball, B. Weiss, A. K. Beck, D. Seebach, Helvetica Chimica Acta, 80, 2507-2514 (1997)
 - "TADDOLs Under Closer Scrutiny Why Bulky Substituents Make it All Different", A.
 K. Beck, M. Dobbler, D. A. Plattner, Helvetica Chimica Acta, 80, 2073-2083 (1997)
- 25 10. U.S. Patent No. 5,637,255: "Chiral Dioxolanes", S. Kelly, M. Schadt, June 1997.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An optically active compound of the formula:

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where the R_2 and R_3 groups are methyl, another lower alkyl group or an aryl or biaryl unit while the R_1 groups independently each are a hydroxyl, alkoxyl, aryloxy, or arylalkoxy group, the R groups each represent a group as follows:

$$A_1 - [-Z -]_q - A_2 -$$

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where A_1 is an aromatic group, an acyclic aliphatic group, or an alicyclic group, and A_1 can be a substituted or unsubstituted group, Z is a group selected from -O-, -OCO-, or -S-, and the coefficient q is 0 or 1. Z may also be $(CH_2)_nO$ where the coefficient n is 0 to 5 and the coefficient q is 1. A_2 is a bivalent radical of a naphthalene group, and the cyclic structure of A_2 , or A_1 if it is cyclic, optionally can be heterocyclic, such as by replacement of one or more CH member(s) of the ring structure with N, O and/or S.

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2. The optically active compound of claim 1, where each R substituent is independently selected as:

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where R₄ represents a group as follows:

$$Y - [-X-]_n - [-Z-]_q -$$

where n is an integer value of 0 or 1 or more, X is -CH=CH-CH₂-, or -(CH₂)_m- where m is an integer value of 1, 2, 3, or more, Y is a radical of an aromatic hydrocarbon, an acyclic aliphatic hydrocarbon, or an alicyclic hydrocarbon, and Y can be a substituted or unsubstituted group, and Z and Q have the same respective meanings as defined in claim 1.

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- 3. The optically active compound of claim 2, where R_4 is an aryloxy radical, an arylalkoxy radical, an arylalkyleneoxy, or an arylalkenyleneoxy radical.
- 4. (4R,5R)-2,2-dimethyl-α,α,α',α'-tetrakis[6-(benzyloxy)naphth-2-yl]-1,3-dioxolane 10 4,5-dimethanol.
 - 5. A liquid crystalline mixture, comprising: a liquid-crystalline base having liquid crystalline properties; at least one optically active compound of the formula as described in any of one of claims 1-4.
 - 6. The liquid crystalline mixture according to claim 5, further including an achiral non-liquid crystalline compound.
- 7. The liquid crystalline mixture according to claim 6, wherein the achiral non-liquid crystalline compound comprises R¹-C≡N, where R¹ represents an aliphatic group.
 - 8. The liquid crystalline mixture according to claim 7, wherein R¹-C≡N comprises an alkylnitrile.

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- 9. The liquid crystalline mixture according to claim 7, wherein R^1 -C=N comprises undecanenitrile.
- 10. An electro-optical cell comprising a layer including a liquid crystalline mixture as described in any one of claims 5-9 sandwiched between two substrate means, and means for applying an electric potential to the substrate means.

11. A light modulating apparatus comprising an electro-optical cell according to claim 10.

- 12. The light modulating apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the light modulating apparatus comprises a cholesteric display.
 - 13. An electro-optical cell comprising:
 - a layer comprising:

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at least 70 weight percent (wt%) nematic host mixture; and at least about 2 wt% (4R,5R)-2,2-dimethyl- α , α , α ', α '-tetrakis[6-

(benzyloxy)naphth-2-yl]-1,3-dioxolane-4,5-dimethanol;

first and second substrates disposed above and below, respectively, the layer; and first and second conductors physically coupled to the first and second substrates, respectively, which permit an electrical potential to be applied across the layer.

- 14. The electro-optical cell as recited in claim 13, wherein the layer further comprises about 2-6 wt% achiral material.
- 15. The electro-optical cell as recited in claim 13, wherein the layer further comprises a chiral material different from (4R,5R)-2,2-dimethyl-α,α,α',α'-tetrakis[6-(benzyloxy)naphth-2-yl]-1,3-dioxolane-4,5-dimethanol and having an opposite twist sense.
 - 16. A light modulating apparatus comprising an electro-optical cell according to any one of claims 13-15.
 - 17. The light modulating apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the light-modulating apparatus comprises a cholesteric display having a temperature independent reflective wavelength.

5 FIG. 1

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15 FIG. 2

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FIG. 3

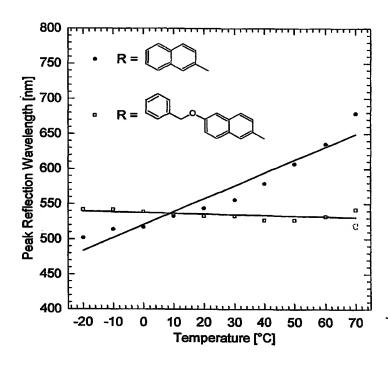
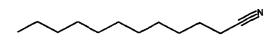
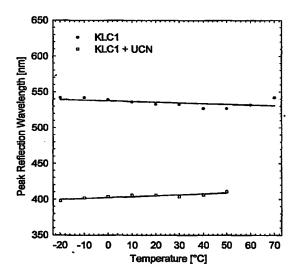


FIG 4

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where UCN is undecyl cyanide:





INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No. PCT/US01/14842

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER						
IPC(7) : C09K 19/34, 19/32, 19/36; C07D 317/12 US CL : 252/299.01, 299.61, 299.62, 299.7; 428/1.1, 549/4	90.450					
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC						
B. FIELDS SEARCHED						
Minimum documentation searched (classification system follower	ed by classification symbols)					
U.S. : 252/299.01, 299.61, 299.62, 299.7; 428/1.1, 549/48	·					
	10, 455					
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation	to the extent that such documents are included in the fields					
searched						
Electronic data base consulted during the international search	name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)					
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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT						
Category Citation of document, with indication, where a	ppropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No.					
X Kuball et al., "TADDOLs with Unpred						
in Liquid Crystals", Helv. Chim. ACT	'A, Vol. 80, pages 2507-2514,					
1997, see whole document						
Y	10-17					
X Chem. abstr., Vol. 124, No. 1996 (70.1 1 077 779.1					
	Columbus, OH, USA), page 1, 5					
9072, the abstract No. 9076r, Quini	cert, Gerhard et al., " Total					
Synthesis with a Chirogenic Open	ing Move Demonstrated on					
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Acta 1995, 78(5), 1345-91 (Eng). see	RN 170709-36-1.					
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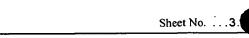
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according to the Patent Cooperation Treaty. Applicant's or agent's file reference KD-01-004PCT (if desired) (12 characters maximum) TITLE OF INVENTION Box No. I CHIRAL ADDITIVES FOR CHOLESTERIC DISPLAYS This person is also inventor Box No. II APPLICANT Telephone No. Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this (330) 673-8784 Box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.) Facsimile No. Kent Displays, Inc. (330) 673-4408 343 Portage Blvd. Kent, OH 44240 Teleprinter No. 1154 Applicant's registration No. with the Office State (that is, country) of residence: State (that is, country) of nationality: America **United States** United States of 4merica the States indicated in the Supplemental Box the United States all designated States except This person is applicant all designated of America only States the United States of America for the purposes of: FURTHER APPLICANT(S) AND/OR (FURTHER) INVENTOR(S) Box No. III This person is: Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this applicant only Box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.) applicant and inventor DOANE, Joseph W. 340 OakWood Drive Kent,OH 44240, US inventor only (If this check-box is marked, do not fill in below.) Applicant's registration No. with the Office State (that is, country) of residence: State (that is, country) of nationality: A merica **United States** 4merieu United States the States indicated in all designated States except the United States of America the United States all designated This person is applicant the Supplemental Box of America only for the purposes of: States Further applicants and/or (further) inventors are indicated on a continuation sheet. AGENT OR COMMON REPRESENTATIVE; OR ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE Box No. IV The person identified below is hereby/has been appointed to act on behalf common representative agent of the applicant(s) before the competent International Authorities as: Telephone No. Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. (703) 706-5862 The address must include postal code and name of country.) POWELL, Raymond H. J. Facsimile No. WESTERLUND POWELL, P.C. (703) 706-5860 122 N. Alfred Street Alexandria, Virginia 22314-3011, US Teleprinter No. Agent's registration No. with the Office 34,231 Address for correspondence: Mark this check-box where no agent or common representative is/has been appointed and the space above is used instead to indicate a special address to which correspondence should be sent.



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Box No. VI PRIORITY	CLAIM			
The priority of the following	earlier application(s) is hereby	y claimed:		
Filing date Number		W	Where earlier application	is:
of earlier application (day/month/year)	of earlier application	national application: country	regional application:* regional Office	international application: receiving Office
item (1) 09/06/2000	60/210,485	United States of America		
item (2)				
item (3)				-
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Box No. VIII (iv)	Declaration of inventorship United States of America)	(only for the purposes of the	he designation of the	:
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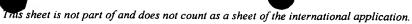
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declaration sheets) description (excluding 17	2. original separate power of attorney	:
sequence listing part)	3. original general power of attorney	:
claims : 3	4. copy of general power of attorney; reference number, if	
abstract : 1	any:	;
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Sub-total number of sheets : 29	6. prioritydocument(s) identified in Box No. VI as item(s):	
sequence listing part of description (actual number	7. translation of international application into	•
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5. International Searching Authority (if two or more are competent): ISA/	US 6. Transmittalof search copy delayed until search fee is paid	
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Date of receipt of the record copy by the International Bureau:		

Form PCT/RO/101 (last sheet) (March 2001) LegalStar 2001, Form PCTREQ

See Notes to the request form





PCT

FEE CALCULATION SHEET

Annex to the Request

For receiving Office use only PCTUS International Application No. 01/14842

Ap	oplicant's or agent's e reference	KD-0	I-004PCT		Date Sam	p of the receiv	OO1	
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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference	Article 36 and	Rule 70)
KD-01-004PCT	FOR FURNIS	
International application No.	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International
I .	International filing date (day/mont	Form PCT/IPFA
PCT/US01/14842 International Paragraphy	08 June 2001 (08 05 200)	Priority date (day/month/year)
International Patent Classification (IPC) o	r national classification and IDC	100 x
IPC(7): C09K 19/34, 19/32, 19/36: C07D	317/12	(09.08.2000)
IPC(7): C09K 19/34, 19/32, 19/36; C07D Applicant	317/12 and US Cl.: lease See Supp	plemental Sheet
KENT DISPLAYS, INC.		
1. This international preliminar	V Avan	
Examining Authority and is	y examination report has been paransmitted to the applicant accordance.	repared by this International Preliminary rding to Article 36.
2. This REPORT	to the applicant according	rding to Article 36.
ALL OR I consists of a to	otal of sheets, including this	
L I IIII (CDOTT 10 alaa .		·
which have been amende	panied by ANNEXES, i.e., she	ets of the description, claims and/or drawings
before this Authority (see	d and are the basis for this repor	rt and/or sheets and/or drawings
		ets of the description, claims and/or drawings rt and/or sheets containing rectifications made the Administrative Instructions under the PCT
total	al of O sheets.	actions under the PCT
3. This report contains indication		
	s relating to the following items:	
I Basis of the report		
II Priority		
		
Non-establishment of	report with regard to novelty.	nventive step and industrial applicability
IV Lack of unity of inver	ttion	iventive step and industrial applicability
Reasoned statement	.a	
applicability; citations	and evaluate 35(2) with regard to	novelty, inventive step or industrial
VI Certain documents cite	ider Article 35(2) with regard to and explanations supporting suc	h statement
	u	
VII Certain defects in the in	nternational application	
Certain observations on	the international application	
	application	
of submission of the demand		
	Date of comple	etion of this report
nuary 2002 (08.01.2002)		
and mailing address of the IPEA/US	27 August 2002	(27.08.2002)
Box PCT Falents and Trademarks	Authorized office	
Washington D.C.	Shean C. Wu	
ille No. (703)305-3220	1	Munh Wall
CT/IPEA/409 (cover sheet)(July 1998)	Telephone No. 7	

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.	
PCT/US01/14842	

⊢–		is of the report
1.	With	regard to the elements of the international application:*
	\boxtimes	the international application as originally filed.
	\boxtimes	the description:
		pages 1-17 as originally filed
		pages NONE, filed with the demand
	<u></u>	pages NONE, filed with the letter of
	\boxtimes	the claims:
		pages 18-20 , as originally filed
		pages NONE, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
		pages NONE , filed with the demand pages NONE , filed with the letter of
	\square	
		the drawings:
		pages 1-2 , as originally filed
		pages NONE , filed with the demand pages NONE , filed with the letter of
	Ш	the sequence listing part of the description:
		pages NONE , as originally filed pages NONE , filed with the demand
		pages NONE , filed with the letter of
2.	With	regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the
	langu	age in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
	These	e elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language which is:
		the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule23.1(b)).
	\Box	the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
	Ħ.	the language of the translation formished for the
		the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination(under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).
3.	With	regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the
	intern	national preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:
		contained in the international application in printed form.
	Ш	filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
		furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
		furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
		The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the
		international application as filed has been furnished.
	;	The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.
4.	\boxtimes	The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of
		the description, pages none
	į	the claims, Nos. none
ſ	'	the drawings, sheets/fig none
5. Į		This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go
	`	by the the disclosure as fried, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)) **
- R his	еріасе	ment sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in remove to an invitation
		as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17). placement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.
	•	to referred to under tiem 1 and annexed to this report.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/US01/14842

Claims 1-17		
Claims none		
Claims 1-17		
Claims none		}
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Claims 1-17		_ Y
Claims none		N
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to naphthalene ring which D.	does not teach or fairly suggest by prior	art.
ring.	is a hydrocarbon. The prior art only disc	loses
•		
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	·	
	Claims 1-17 Claims none Claims 1-17 Claims none	Claims 1-17 Claims 1-17 Claims 1-17 Claims none Claims 1-17 Claims none 33(2)-(4), because the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest by prior to naphthalene ring, which R4 is a hydrocarbon. The prior art only disc ring.

International application No.

PCT/US01/14842

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the questions whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

Claims 2-3 and 5-12 are objected to as lacking clarity under PCT Rule 66.2(a)(v) because practice of the claimed invention is not adequately described in writing, as required under PCT Rule 5.1(a)(iii), for the reasons set forth in the immediately preceding paragraph.

The coefficient n in notation R4 does not have an upper limit. The language "0 or 1 or more" is not clearly defined for n value.

Form PCT/IPEA/409 (Box VIII) (July 1998)